

BY E. P. WALTON.

MONTPELIER, JUNE 6, 1862.

FROM WASHINGTON.

H. A. WASHINGTON, May 29, 1862.

Read's Retreat—Vermont Cavalry.

A few days before Gen. Banks was driven out of Virginia by an overwhelming force of our enemy, an officer from his division informed me that the Vermont cavalry was not with Banks. I inferred that it was a part of the force sent to McDowell, and therefore that the Vermonters were safe. Not until to-day did I learn to the contrary. This morning came the account, in the *New York World*, of the terrible cutting up of Co. A, (from Chittenden county,) and, fortunately, at noon Major E. H. Sawyer arrived with the latest and authentic intelligence, correcting that account. Company A mustered 52 men when Maj. Sawyer left; Company C was not mustered at all; but Company G, (from Bennington county,) suffered severely, mortally only 40 men. It is supposed Capt. Read, of that company, was killed. Lieutenant Danforth lost an eye. Fifty-two is the apparent loss in killed, wounded and missing, but it is expected that some of the wounded and missing may yet come in. Most of the wounded are probably prisoners, if they have not been inhumanely murdered. There is sum reason for fearing the latter. It seems that on Saturday morning Companies A and G were detached and advanced with Gen. Hatch and other cavalry in the line of Gen. Banks' march with the infantry, and in their rear. They were caught by the enemy in a *caelum* and, it turns out, that the road was barricaded with wagons, in the rear of which was the enemy, whose lines also were extended in front on each side of the way. The barricade was now known to our cavalry, and therefore when they made a gallant charge to drive and cut their way through the enemy, they dashed directly upon the barricade, and horses and men were piled upon each other in a mass! Most of the men and horses killed met death in this manner rather than from the enemy. It is wonderful that any of them escaped; but the largest part did escape and reach the main body in safety. Major Collins, of the Vermont cavalry, led his charge, and it is supposed he was killed. At any rate, he is missing.

The remainder of the Vermont cavalry was still farther to the rear, under Col. Tompkins, serving as rear-guard of the little army. When about three miles north of Staunton, they found themselves entrapped, as their comrades had been. The baggage-train in front had encountered a barricade and a strong rebel force, and the horses had to turn in their tracks and run to the rear. The cavalry had no notice or suspicion of an enemy in their proximate vicinity; they met this stampede of the baggage-train. They immediately formed in line of battle. Luckily a New York battery of three Parrott guns was with them. The work was commenced with these, supported by the cavalry. By shelling the front and surrounding woods for about minutes, they were induced to show themselves, and they came out with their batteries and a hundred rifled and the rebel infantry rushed on, the charge, yelling like so many Indians. It was impossible to charge the barricade, and equally impossible to hold their ground without inflicting or even with it, against so large a force. Maj. Sawyer had gallantly led, starting at Stanbridge for three weeks, and in that time had made himself familiar with all the roads and by-paths to their vicinity. He informed Col. Tompkins that he thought he knew the way out of God's almighty; and was permitted to make the attempt to lead the regiment round the enemy. He lead him out as far from each of which the New York battery played upon the enemy to keep them back as far as possible and allow the baggage-train to move off. In this way the little force went by one of the main roads until it came to a side road. The baggage-train kept the main road, was followed by the enemy, and was captured—except what our men could burn or destroy. In the mean time the cavalry and artillery pursued the enemy to keep them back as far as possible and allow the baggage-train to move off. In this way the little force went by one of the main roads until it came to a side road. The baggage-train kept the main road, was followed by the enemy, and was captured—except what our men could burn or destroy.

Gen. Banks deserves all praise for his wonderful success in this retreat. His men think it more creditable to him than would have been a victory. Forty miles his little army was under fire, and all the time Banks himself was between the enemy and his men—in the rear of his force and not at the head of it; thus taking more than the common personal risk. Sawyer says Banks was "as cool as on parade." The retreat of Tompkins (or, perhaps I should say of Sawyer,) was an inde-pendential, but equally successful.

The blunder in Congress (House) on the emancipation bill is now in a way of being retrieved, with an improvement of the bill.

The House of Representatives have passed a joint resolution—*yes* 74, *nays* not counted—that Congress adjourn on the 16th inst.

U. S. S. Smith and Lieut. Col. Grant, of the Vermont Fifth, are both quite sick. Col. Vizier, of the Vermont Third, is now in command of the regiment.

David Phipps, confined in the Edinburgh jail awaiting trial for the murder of Stephen of Cradley, has shot himself, placing the muzzle of the gun under his chin and blowing the lock of his head completely off. He was allowed to have a gun in the cell to shoot birds from a martin-house opposite the window.

The house of William Hastings, at London, was burned on the 23d ult., with the furniture, provisions, and most of the clothing contained in it. Loss \$1000.

POSTSCRIPT.

Gen. Halleck telegraphs from Corinth that Gen. Banks is 30 miles south of that place, in hot pursuit of Beauregard's army, having taken 10,000 prisoners and 13,000 stand of arms. The rebels are being dispersed in all directions, and Beauregard's army is entirely broken up.

We object to it as subversive of the very principles upon which our Union rests, the Union of independent State sovereignties, and a general Federal government. We object to it as unfair and dishonest, a policy surreptitiously introduced to crowd out the true and real issue before the country. We object to it as nugatory, impracticable and vain. We

Walton's *Daily Journal*—We have unmercifully treated the *Confederate* on Walton's *Daily Journal*—but those of us who have been born and brought up in New England know that the people of this State have been born and brought up in New England. Their leader is Barnard, who seems to be moving very liberally, just now, except Mr. Walton goes home from Washington for a short time, and gets a wind of the free, bracing air of his native New England. We notice in the *Journal* to day, that the *Journal* tends to the editorial chair of the *Advertiser*. The *Advertiser* and *Emancipation Press* differ from those of Mr. Walton. Not bad of that—*Free Press*.For ourselves, we might add that Mr. Walton is a good man, an officer from his division informed me that the Vermont cavalry was not with Banks. I inferred that it was a part of the forces sent to McDowell, and therefore that the Vermonters were safe. Not until to-day did I learn to the contrary. 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